

## BENCH-BAR-MEDIA CONFERENCE

### MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 1998 MEETING

The Bench-Bar-Media Conference convened on October 1, 1998 (rescheduled from September 17, 1998) in all three counties simultaneously at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was open to the public. Present (in New Castle County unless otherwise noted) were:

#### Members from the Bench

Judge Roderick R. McKelvie  
Judge Henry duPont Ridgely (in Kent County)  
Judge Vincent J. Poppiti  
Judge John K. Welch

#### Members from the Bar

Richard D. Kirk  
Howard M. Handelman

#### Members from the Print Media

Rita Farrell  
John Taylor  
Randell Beck (for Jane Amari)  
Frank Fantini (for Mike Pelrine, in Kent County)  
James Flood

#### Members from the Electronic Media

William D. Osborne  
Todd Halliday

Excused absences were Justice Randy J. Holland, Vice Chancellor Jack B. Jacobs, Eugene H. Bayard, and Marilyn Buerkle.

#### 1. Minutes of March 19 and May 21, 1998

The members approved minutes of meetings held on March 19, 1998 and May 21, 1998. The members also decided to establish a repository for minutes of the Conference, and tentatively agreed to make the office of the Supreme Court Administrator that repository. Members were invited to send the Chair copies of minutes dating to the reformation of the Conference so that a complete set may be sent to the repository at the outset.

#### 2. Officers for next year

By custom, the Vice Chair assumes the Chair. On motion duly made and seconded, Richard D. Kirk, a bar representative, was elected Chair for the 1998-1999 year. Also by custom, the print media will nominate the Vice Chair for the coming year, who will become Chair the year after. At the request of the print media representatives, the Conference decided to await the next meeting to nominate and elect a Vice Chair.

2. Internet Seminar

The members of the conference discussed the cancellation and possible rescheduling of the Internet Seminar. The Bar Association's Computer Law Section and Intellectual Property Section want to co-sponsor. The Chair will advise the members when a date has been set.

3. Membership

The attached roster was distributed. Any corrections generally or additions of e-mail addresses should be sent to Richard Kirk.

4. Cameras in the courtroom

The members discussed the perennial issue of cameras in the courtroom. The members expressed an interest in becoming part of the planning process for the new Justice Center. The Chair will (1) ask Justice Holland how best to become involved in that process and (2) ask Larry Webster, the new Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, to attend an upcoming meeting of the Conference.

5. High Profile Trials

The members discussed a number of issues related to the coverage of highly publicized trials, such as the Capano trial scheduled to start later in the month. Superior Court Administrator Tom Ralston has met with an advisory committee of media representatives to iron out most details. Adequate interview facilities remains a problem, especially for the electronic media.

6. Old Business

There was no old business remaining from any prior session.

7. New Business

No new business was introduced.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 12, 1998 at noon at the News Journal offices on Basin Road.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.